

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 498

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CUNNINGHAM.

Read 1st time February 25, 2009, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

2150S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 160.522, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to school accountability report cards.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 160.522, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.522, to read as follows:

160.522. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall
2 produce or cause to be produced, at least annually, a school accountability report
3 card for each public school district, each public school building in a school
4 district, and each charter school in the state. The report card shall be designed
5 to satisfy state and federal requirements for the disclosure of statistics about
6 students, staff, finances, academic achievement, and other indicators. The
7 purpose of the report card shall be to provide educational statistics and
8 accountability information for parents, taxpayers, school personnel, legislators,
9 and the print and broadcast news media in a standardized, easily accessible form.

10 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop
11 a standard form for the school accountability report card. The information
12 reported shall include, but not be limited to, the district's most recent
13 accreditation rating, enrollment, rates of pupil attendance, high school dropout
14 rate and graduation rate, the number and rate of suspensions of ten days or
15 longer and expulsions of pupils, the district ratio of students to administrators
16 and students to classroom teachers, the average years of experience of
17 professional staff and advanced degrees earned, student achievement as
18 measured through the assessment system developed pursuant to section 160.518,
19 student scores on the ACT, along with the percentage of graduates taking the

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 test, average teachers' and administrators' salaries compared to the state
21 averages, average per pupil current expenditures for the district as a whole and
22 by attendance center as reported to the department of elementary and secondary
23 education, the adjusted tax rate of the district, assessed valuation of the district,
24 percent of the district operating budget received from state, federal, and local
25 sources, the percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, data on
26 the percent of students continuing their education in postsecondary programs,
27 [and] information about the job placement rate for students who complete district
28 vocational education programs, **whether the school district currently has**
29 **a state-approved gifted education program, and if the school district**
30 **has had a state-approved gifted education program within the last**
31 **three years.**

32 3. The report card shall permit the disclosure of data on a school-by-school
33 basis, but the reporting shall not be personally identifiable to any student or
34 education professional in the state.

35 4. The report card shall identify each school or attendance center that has
36 been identified as a priority school under sections 160.720 and 161.092,
37 RSMo. The report also shall identify attendance centers that have been
38 categorized under federal law as needing improvement or requiring specific school
39 improvement strategies.

40 5. The report card shall not limit or discourage other methods of public
41 reporting and accountability by local school districts. Districts shall provide
42 information included in the report card to parents, community members, the print
43 and broadcast news media, and legislators by December first annually or as soon
44 thereafter as the information is available to the district, giving preference to
45 methods that incorporate the reporting into substantive official communications
46 such as student report cards. The school district shall provide a printed copy of
47 the district-level or school-level report card to any patron upon request and shall
48 make reasonable efforts to supply businesses such as, but not limited to, real
49 estate and employment firms with copies or other information about the reports
50 so that parents and businesses from outside the district who may be
51 contemplating relocation have access.

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